

The Signs of the Times, vol. 9

ESR

Alonzo Trevier Jones

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1883

March 1, 1883

"Value of Marginal References" *The Signs of the Times* 9, 9, p. 98.

BY ELD. A. T. JONES

AS a kind of religious "last ditch," the marginal references of *Acts 20:7*; *1 Corinthians 16:2* and *Revelation 1:10* are adopted as proof that the first day of the week is the Lord's day, and therefore holy. *SITI March 1, 1883, page 98.1*

I would not utter a word against the use of the marginal references of the Scriptures as *helps to the study* of the sacred word; but there are inseparable objections to there being adopted as the *basis of doctrine*, or their use as *authority* in connection with the word itself. *SITI March 1, 1883, page 98.2*

The marginal references, the punctuation, the divisions into verses and chapters, are all the work of men. Not of men met together for that purpose as in the translation of the Scriptures; but by several men at different times, and each independent of all the others. *SITI March 1, 1883, page 98.3*

First was the division into chapters. This was made by Hugo de Sancto Caro who was born at St. Cher, Dauphine, France, about A.D. 1200, was created a cardinal by Pope Innocent IV., in 1245, and died in 1263. In preparing to make a concordance to the Latin Vulgate version of the Scriptures, he divided both the Old Testament and the New into chapters, and that division still remains as he made it, in all our Bibles. *SITI March 1, 1883, page 98.4*

Next was the division into verses. The first direct step toward this was taken by Rabbi Mordecai Nathan, a celebrated Jewish teacher, in a "Concordance to the Hebrew Scriptures," composed A.D. 1438 to 1445. In this concordance, he made the division into verses, and marked every fifth verse with a Hebrew numeral letter. Then in 1661, Athias, a Jew of Amsterdam, printed an addition of the Hebrew Bible, in which he adopted the verses of Rabbi Nathan, and marked every verse with the figures in common use 1, 2, 3, 4, &c., &c., except the verses previously marked with the Hebrew numerals by Rabbi Nathan. With the rejection of these Hebrew numerals, and placing instead the corresponding figures, the verses and numbers of Nathan and Athias are still retain and all the copies of the Bible and other languages. But observe, this refers only to the Hebrew Bible *i. e.* the Old Testament. The verses of the New Testament as now used our the invention of a printer, Robert Stephens by name, in imitation of those made for the Old Testament by Rabbi Nathan. They were first introduced in 1551, in an addition of the New Testament printed by Stephens. *SITI March 1, 1883, page 98.5*

As for punctuation points, with the exception of the period, no such things were known when the New Testament was written, nor for a long time afterward, for the riding in the oldest manuscripts is all in Without accent or mark of any kind, not even spaces, between the words. Here is a copy of the first few lines of the gospel of John as it was written:— *SITI March 1, 1883, page 98.6*

"INTHEBEGINNINGWASTHEWORDANDTHEWORDWASWITHGOD. ANDGODWASTHEW
HEWASINTHEBEGINNINGWITHGODALLWEREMADEBYHIMANDWITHOUTHIMWASMADENOTONETHING
March 1, 1883, page 98.7

About 400 A. D. Jerome, and others from him, used points that correspond with our comma and colon, but they did not go into general use at all. Again in the eighth century the stroke now called comma was received, and Jerome's points were again used at the command of Charlemagne, and in the ninth century the Greek note of interrogation, which is now our semicolon, was first use. But it was not till the invention of printing that any of these points came into general use. Thus the colon and the period began to be used about 1485, the comma was next given a better shape, and the semicolon added about 1521, and in surface Philip Sidney's "Arcadia" 1587 they all appear, as also the note of interrogation, the asterisk, and the parenthesis. *SITI March 1, 1883, page 98.8*

Then again, there were no of knowledge rules to guide the editors and printers and the use of the points, consequently they were placed just as each one please, and very often arbitrarily. And yet again the same editors and printers would change the punctuation in the different editions of the same work as they were successively printed; especially did Stephens vary his points in every addition of the Bible that he printed. And more than that, this variance in the punctuation of the Bible is not yet ended, as any one may prove by comparing copies of the Bible printed only as far back as 1830 or 1840 with the later editions, and looking at *Matthew 19:28* and *Hebrews 10:12*. In the earlier copies, at *Matthew 19:28* you will see the comma placed after "regeneration" in the passage reading thus:—"Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me in the regeneration, when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory," &c, whereas in the later copies the

comma is placed after "me," thus: "ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory," &c. See what a difference it makes. The first would imply that Christ had been in *Hebrews 10:12* is still more apparent, for in the older editions the comma is after "sins," thus; "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins, for ever sat down on the right hand of God," where in the newer editions the comma is placed after 'ever,' thus: "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God." While the first would make Christ *sat down at the right hand of God forever*, the last only makes *one sacrifice for sins for ever*, and then sat down at the right hand of God only "till his enemies be made his footstool." *SITI March 1, 1883, page 98.9*

To anyone who will compare the Revised New Testament with the old version of common use, it will be apparent that the Revision Committee did not hold themselves subject to the punctuation of the common version, but changed it wherever they chose; and it would seem that there changes are not always for the better, for instance, *Matthew 27:52, 53*. From this it would appear that at *the death of the Saviour*, "many bodies of the saints that had fallen asleep were raised;" and yet did not come out of the tombs *till after his resurrection*, which was the third day after his death. Such a thing is hardly to be supposed, but rather, as our old version gives it, that, at the death of Christ *"the graves were opened*; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of their graves after his resurrection," that is, *the graves were opened* at his death, when the earth quaked, and the rocks were rent; but the saints did not arise till after his resurrection. This looks more reasonable, and is less ambiguous. Yet there are places in our old standard version where the punctuation needs to be changed before the Scripture will be in harmony with itself. One notable instance is *Luke 23:43*; by placing the comma after "to-day," instead of after "thee." Then it will harmonize perfectly with *Zechariah 9:12* and *John 20:17*, and with the whole course of Scripture on that subject. *SITI March 1, 1883, page 98.10*

Now we come to the *marginal references*. The first introduction of these was in Coverdale's Bible, the first English translation of the entire Bible, which was printed in 1535. The marginal references were few however, but they served as an introduction, and as an inducement to others to follow his lead. The next was King James' translation of 1611, now our Authorized Version. This had in the first edition, 6,588 references in the Old Testament and 1,527 in the New. In an addition printed by J. Harris, in 1677, there were 14,699 references in the Old Testament and 9,857 in the New. In Dr. Scattergood's edition 1678, there were 20,300 to 27 references in the Old Testament, and 11,717 in the New. In Dr. Blayney's, 1769, there were 43,318 in the Old Testament, and 19,898 in the New. In Bishop Wilson's, 1785, there were 45,190 in the Old Testament, and 19,993 in the New, making total in Old and New of 65,183. These were perhaps a few additions are the ones we now use, and thus we have *Acts 20:7*, and *1 Corinthians 16:2* referring to *Revelation 1:10*. No doubt these Bishops believed, as many will claim now, that the first day of the week is the Lord's day, but the Scripture does not say so, and there running the references from one to the other does not make it so, any more than the references from *Leviticus 16:10, 21, 22* to *Isaiah 53:6, 11, 12*, and *1 John 2:2*, &c., make Christ, the Holy Saviour, the *scapegoat*. Neither of these is any nearer to the truth than is the explanation in the margin of *Daniel 9:24*, in saying that the seventy weeks begin from the twentieth year of Artaxerxes. And not one of all three is any nearer to the truth than is the margin of *2 Chronicles 21:12*, in explaining the writing which came to Jehoram from Elijah the prophet, when it says, "Which was written before his [Elijah's] death.' Everybody knows that there is no truth in that, for all know that Elijah *never died*, but was caught up *alive*, by a whirlwind, *into heaven*. *SITI March 1, 1883, page 98.11*

All this goes to show that the references are not to be followed implicitly as are the Scriptures, but simply and alone, as *helps* to the study of the Scripture. As such they are a very great help. But always bear in mind that the *plain reading of the word of God* is to be taken *above any, or all*, references, punctuation, or division of verses or chapters. *SITI March 1, 1883, page 98.12*

June 28, 1883

"Upper Columbia Conference" *The Signs of the Times* 9, 25, p. 297.

THE third annual session of the Upper Columbia Conference convened at the Milton camp-ground, June 6-12, 1883. First meeting June 7, 5 P. M. President in the chair. Prayer by Eld. Haskell. Credentials of delegates called for and presented as follows: Milton, 3; Walla Walla 3; Pataha, 1; Farmington, 1; Echo, 1; Dayton, 1; Alba, 1. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.1*

The church of Farmington, W. T., 15 members, was admitted into the Conference, also the church of Echo, Oregon, 11 members. Voted that Bro. Wm. Russell be invited to act as representative of the brethren in the Spokane Country. Voted that Eld. Haskell, of General Conference, Eld Boyd, of N. P. Conference, and Bro. W. C. White, of P. S. D. A. Pub. Association, be invited to participate in the deliberations of the conference. Minutes of last session read and approved. Voted that all committees be appointed by the chair. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.2*

Remarks were made by Elds. Haskell and Boyd on the point of turning the "moving" spirit to good account, by all who move into new places making of themselves active missionaries in the places where they go. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.3*

Committees were named as follows: on Resolutions, Elds. Haskell, A. T. Jones, and Bro. W. J. Goodwin; on Nominations, W. A. Gibson, G. W. Rees, C. W. Hick; on Credentials, I. M. Johns, G. S. Rogers, T. Chabot; or Auditing, Wm. Russell, C. W. Hicks, N. W. Miller, C. I. Ford, W. A. Gibson, Wm. J. Goodwin. Adjourned to call of chair. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.4*

SECOND MEETING, JUNE 11, 5:30 P. M

Prayer by Bro. Goodwin. Voted that Bro. H. A. Wilder act as representative of the Basket Mountain company. The reading of minutes was waived, and reports of committees called for. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.5*

Committee on Nominations reported as follows: President, Eld. G. W. Colcord; Secretary, Eld. A. T. Jones; Treasurer, Wm. Nichols; Ex. Committee, T. I. Ragsdale, Wm. J. Goodwin. These were all elected. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.6*

Committee on Credentials and Licenses reported as follows: That the credentials of Elds. G. W. Colcord and Alonzo T. Jones, and the licenses of W. A. Gilson and Wm. Russell, be renewed, and that colporteur's licenses be granted to C. L. Ford and H. A. Wilder. After remarks by Elds. Haskell and Colcord and the candidates, the report was adopted. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.7*

Committee on Resolutions reported as follows: *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.8*

WHEREAS, The evidences of the near coming of the Lord are daily increasing, and the time for laboring for the salvation of souls is short, therefore *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.9*

Resolved, That it be the view of this Conference that our brethren should not retain the labors of the ministers, but that they be free to labor in such fields as may present a prospect of raising up new churches. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.10*

Resolved, That we heartily recommend to our brethren and sisters the plan adopted by other Conferences in obtaining subscribers for the **SIGNS OF THE TIMES** for a short period, and visiting, and their laboring to awaken an interest in new fields. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.11*

Resolved, That it is the view of this Conference that Bro. Wm. Russell be employed in labor in the missionary work, and to visit the brethren at their homes and churches, and encourage the study of the Bible and mission work. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.12*

Resolved, That Bro. Wm. Nichols be requested to assist Bro. Russell, as far as he can, consistently with his other duties. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.13*

Resolved, That we recommend that Bro. Goodwin devote his time to the missionary and canvassing work; especially the "Home Hand Book." And that he shape his financial affairs so that he can work where he can do the most good. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.14*

WHEREAS, There is a feeling among many of our brethren and sisters that a school is needed in this Conference, where the young can be brought under proper influences, as well as shielded from the

corruptions which are common to many of the schools of the present day, and *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.15*

WHEREAS, When such school shall be established, there should be connected therewith teachers who can also give instruction to young men and women, by which they may be fitted for positions of usefulness in the cause of God. And as at present we have not teachers of such experience, nor a suitable place selected for the establishment of such a school, therefore *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.16*

Resolved, That we recommend that those of our brethren and sisters who have in view the work of teaching, attend the school at Healdsburg, Cal., that thus they may obtain the instruction and experience which will enable them to efficiently connect themselves with such school whenever in the providence of God it may be founded. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.17*

Resolved, That we recommend also that those young men and women who design giving themselves to labor in the cause of God, either in the work of the ministry or otherwise, and are not prepared, through lack of instruction, to enter the field, attend the school at Healdsburg, and thus obtain such information and experience as will enable them to labor more successfully in the work of the Third Angel's Message. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.18*

After the reading and full discussion of each of the resolutions, they were adopted unanimously. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.19*

Voted, That we extend the thanks of this Conference to the General Conference for the labors of Eld. Haskell, to the N. P. Conference for the help of Eld. C. L. Boyd, to the P. S. D. A. P. A. for the assistance of Bro. W. C. White. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.20*

Voted, That the thanks of the Conference be extended to the O. R. & N. Co., and the Northern Pacific R. R. for the favor granted, in returning to their homes at reduced rates all who have come to this meeting over their lines. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.21*

Voted, That we heartily thank Bro. Nichols for the free use of the camp-ground. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.22*

Voted, That Wm. Nichols, W. J. Goodwin, Ambrose Johnson, Wm. McCoy, and T. L. Ragsdale, comprise the camp-meeting committee for the ensuing year. Following is the Treasurer's Report: *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.23*

FROM JUNE 1, 1882, TO JUNE 1, 1883.

Amount received..... \$1516.25 *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.24*

Amount paid to Gen'l. Conf. and Ministers 953.20 *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.25*

Balance on hand \$503.05 *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.26*

WM. NICHOLS, *Treasurer*, *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.27*

Adjourned without day. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.28*

G. W. COLCORD, *President*. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.29*

ALONZO T. JONES, *Secretary*. *SITI June 28, 1883, page 297.30*

